

Woolly apple aphids infest roots, trunks, limbs, shoots, and occasionally the fruit of apple trees. The bodies of these bark-feeding aphids are completely covered by masses of white, wool-like, waxy materials, hence its name. For region-specific information, please contact your local Giving Grove partner.



## Appearance:

- Shortly after birth, the nymph is salmon colored and lacks the woolly coating. This stage is known as the crawler.
- The adult is reddish-brown to purple. The actual color, however, is usually concealed beneath a white, cotton-like substance secreted from the aphid's abdomen. This characteristic makes this aphid species easy to distinguish from other aphid species occurring on apple

## Damage:

- The main injury to young and mature trees is stunting (due to the formation of root galls).
- Colonies may be found feeding below the ground tree roots of susceptible rootstocks, or above ground on previously wounded sites or at the base of new foliage.
- Roots of infested trees have large, abnormal swellings. Continued feeding can kill roots and cause reduced growth or even death of young trees.
- If populations are high, honeydew and sooty mold will also be problems, and aphids may enter the calyx end of fruit.

## Management:

- *Aphelinus mali* is a parasite that can completely control aerial colonies. Outbreaks of woolly apple aphid are most common following the use of pyrethroids, which destroys its natural enemies.
- Resistant varieties and rootstocks as well as biological controls are organically acceptable methods.
- Pinch aphid infestations off terminal shoots on young trees if necessary
- If a severe problem persists, utilize a pure neem oil application (.05% concentration every four to seven days)

Sources: University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources and Washington State University, and "The Holistic Orchard"

Giving Grove programs are located across the country! Find one closest to you at [GivingGrove.org](http://GivingGrove.org).

PHONE | 816-226-6380 EMAIL | [info@givinggrove.org](mailto:info@givinggrove.org) WEB | [www.givinggrove.org](http://www.givinggrove.org)